National Water Policy

†3190. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Water Policy is required for power distribution and better management of water in the country;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether Government have made any concrete efforts during the last three years for preparing a water policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when water policy is expected to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) National Water Policy (1987) provides for planning, development and management of water resources in the country. There is a separate policy on Hydro Power Development. The National Water Policy was adopted in 1987 by the National Water Resources Council (NWRC) headed by the Prime Minister with all the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Ministers/Administrators of Union Territories as its members. This policy is presently under revision/updation based on the experiences of last 14 years and new issues/challenges emerged in water resources sector. The draft updated National Water Policy has been formulated and finalised by the National Water Board in 1998. The draft policy has also been considered by the National Water Resources Council in its 4th meeting held on 7th July, 2000 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The deliberations established a consensus among the States on most of the important issues contained in the proposed draft updated National Water Policy. However, some areas were found needing further more discussions. In order to examine and for achieving greater

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

convergence and agreement on these issues as well, a Working Group of Irrigation/Water Resources Ministers of all the States/ Union Territories under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources was constituted on 9th October, 2000. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 22nd May, 2001 wherein the draft updated National Water Policy was deliberated upon to arrive at near consensus. The draft policy would be discussed further in the next meeting of the Working Group. The draft updated Policy will need to be considered by the National Water Resources Council for its approval.

Water balance studies in relation to river Ganga

3191. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency has completed the Water Balance Studies in relation to River Ganga;

(b) if so, the main conclusions of study;

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) the quantum and the period during which surplus water is available for other than riparian States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The eastern tributaries of Ganga besides Ganga main stem at Chunar and at Farakka are surplus. The western and southern tributaries of Ganga besides main stem of Ganga upto Narora Barrage and Ramganga basin upto Ram Ganga Dam are deficit.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As per the water balance studies conducted by NWDA about 92 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) of Ganga water is proposed to be diverted all through the year by construction of storages for regulation of water. This transfer, besides benefiting